

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS

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1. An image forming apparatus comprising:  
a photosensitive body having a photosensitive  
layer; and

an optical scanning device having a deflector  
10 deflecting a light flux emitted from a light source, and  
scanning the surface of said photosensitive body by the  
thus-deflected light flux,

wherein said apparatus is configured such that  
a dot is formed at a center between adjacent light  
15 fluxes as a result of the adjacent light fluxes being  
overlapped with one another in a sub-scan direction, and  
wherein a ratio of a static beam-spot diameter  
Ws in the sub-scan direction on the surface of said  
photosensitive body defined by  $1/e^2$  of the maximum value  
20 in the exposure distribution of the beam spot to an  
interval L between adjacent scan lines satisfies the  
following formula:

$$1.2 < W_s / L < 4.5$$

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2. The apparatus as claimed in claim 1,  
wherein said apparatus is further configured such that a  
ratio of a static beam-spot diameter  $W_m$  in a main scan  
direction on the surface of said photosensitive body  
5 defined by  $1/e^2$  of the maximum value in the exposure  
distribution of the beam spot to the static beam-spot  
diameter  $W_s$  in the sub-scan direction on the surface of  
said photosensitive body defined by  $1/e^2$  of the maximum  
value in the exposure distribution of the beam spot  
10 satisfies the following formula:

$$W_m / W_s < 1$$

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3. An optical scanning device comprising:  
a deflector deflecting a light flux emitted  
20 from a light source, and scanning a surface of a  
photosensitive body by the thus-deflected light flux,  
wherein a dot is formed at a center between  
adjacent light fluxes as a result of the adjacent light  
fluxes being overlapped with one another in a sub-scan  
25 direction, and

wherein said device is configured such that a ratio of a static beam-spot diameter  $W_s$  in the sub-scan direction on the surface of said photosensitive body defined by  $1/e^2$  of the maximum value in the exposure distribution of the beam spot to an interval  $L$  between adjacent scan lines satisfies the following formula:

$$1.2 < W_s / L < 4.5$$

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4. The device as claimed in claim 3, wherein  
15 said device is further configured such that a ratio of a static beam-spot diameter  $W_m$  in a main scan direction on the surface of said photosensitive body defined by  $1/e^2$  of the maximum value in the exposure distribution of the beam spot to the static beam-spot diameter  $W_s$  in the  
20 sub-scan direction on the surface of said photosensitive body defined by  $1/e^2$  of the maximum value in the exposure distribution of the beam spot satisfies the following formula:

25  $W_m / W_s < 1$

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5. A method of forming an image, comprising  
the steps of:

a) emitting a light flux from a light source;

b) deflecting the light flux; and

5 c) scanning a surface of a photosensitive body  
by the thus-deflected light flux,

wherein a dot is formed at a center between  
adjacent light fluxes as a result of the adjacent light  
fluxes being overlapped with one another in a sub-scan

10 direction,

wherein a ratio of a static beam-spot diameter  
 $W_s$  in the sub-scan direction on the surface of said  
photosensitive body defined by  $1/e^2$  of the maximum value  
in the exposure distribution of the beam spot to an  
15 interval  $L$  between adjacent scan lines satisfies the  
following formula:

$$1.2 < W_s / L < 4.5$$

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6. The method as claimed in claim 5, wherein  
25 a ratio of a static beam-spot diameter  $W_m$  in a main scan

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direction on the surface of said photosensitive body defined by  $1/e^2$  of the maximum value in the exposure distribution of the beam spot to the static beam-spot diameter  $W_s$  in the sub-scan direction on the surface of  
5 said photosensitive body defined by  $1/e^2$  of the maximum value in the exposure distribution of the beam spot satisfies the following formula:

$$W_m / W_s < 1$$

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15 7. An image forming apparatus comprising:  
photosensitive means having a photosensitive layer; and

an optical scanning means having deflecting means for deflecting a light flux emitted by light  
20 emitting means, and scanning the surface of said photosensitive means by the thus-deflected light flux,  
wherein a dot is formed at a center between adjacent light fluxes as a result of the adjacent light fluxes being overlapped with one another in a sub-scan  
25 direction,

wherein said apparatus is configured such that  
a ratio of a static beam-spot diameter  $W_s$  in the sub-  
scan direction on the surface of said photosensitive  
means defined by  $1/e^2$  of the maximum value in the  
5 exposure distribution of the beam spot to an interval  $L$   
between adjacent scan lines satisfies the following  
formula:

$$1.2 < W_s / L < 4.5$$

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15           8. The apparatus as claimed in claim 7,  
wherein a ratio of a static beam-spot diameter  $W_m$  in a  
main scan direction on the surface of said  
photosensitive means defined by  $1/e^2$  of the maximum  
value in the exposure distribution of the beam spot to  
20 the static beam-spot diameter  $W_s$  in the sub-scan  
direction on the surface of said photosensitive means  
defined by  $1/e^2$  of the maximum value in the exposure  
distribution of the beam spot satisfies the following  
formula:

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Wm / Ws < 1

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